


PLAIN TALKS

JANUARY, 1977





A Very Special Day

Today is really special, so it seems to me.
It started out so very nice, I feel so differently.
Right before my slumber ended, it was just like other
times
When my dreams had all been shattered by the old
alarm clock's chimes.

But this morning I awakened not alone—at least it
seemed
That a friend was waiting for me, or was it something
that I'd dreamed?
I sat up and looked about me, but not a soul was any-
where,
So I just quietly listened, for I knew someone was there.

And then I grasped the secret of why I felt that way,
For the room was filled with sunshine, the brilliant
smile of day.
It brought a happy feeling that all would turn out fine,
And I'd best be up and doing God's work and some of
mine.

...by Ward McCurtain
1974

PLAIN TALKS

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Page 2

IF AT FIRST YOU DON'T SUCCEED . . .

A river crossing isn't an easy job under any conditions for a pipeline construction crew, and it doesn't help to have a ship come by with a dragging anchor.

Page 4

HELLO ALASKA, HOUSTON CALLING

Communicating with far distant and isolated areas of the world is a breeze when you can bounce your message off a satellite, from one Earth Station to another.

Page 8

GSU NEWS

The Company's construction and fuel efforts for 1977 and beyond are geared with a great deal of flexibility to meet suspected challenges.

A retired couple visits America's last frontier.

Blood drive in area is successful.

Page 12

RETIREMENTS

Two employees end their careers.

Page 14

PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

Page 16

SERVICE AWARDS

Page 18

LETTERS

Page 19

COFFEE CUP

THE COVER:

Aerial view of Willow Glen Station south of Baton Rouge.

A pipeline project to connect the station with a line across the river has been delayed due to a freak accident . . . see page 2

If At First You Don't Succeed..

It's enough to make a grown man cry.

Six new pipelines had just been laid to rest on the bottom of the Mississippi River near Willow Glen Station, a final check by divers was virtually all that remained to be done to complete the river crossing.

Today the whole job has to be redone following an accident involving a freighter, a dragging anchor and just plain bad luck.

Varibus, a wholly owned subsidiary of GSU, is participating in the river crossing project with Big Three Industries of Houston, in a joint venture that calls for placing six, 12 inch pipelines across the Mississippi River a little down river from Willow Glen. By agreement, three of the lines would belong to Varibus, and three to Big Three Industries.

The river crossing phase is the first part of a plan by Varibus to connect Willow Glen Station with a pipeline owned by Louisiana Intrastate Gas Corporation. Connection would be made near the town of Plaquemine, and when in operation, the 7.5 mile pipeline will deliver in excess of 200 million cubic feet of gas a day to the power plant.

J. Ray McDermott & Co. of Harvey, La., is the contractor for the river crossing phase, with design and engineering handled by Ford, Bacon & Davis Company of Monroe, La.

Everything was going well on the project. The weather was almost ideal, the river itself was at its lowest stage in a number of years, and the job was nearing completion well before the anticipated date of Jan. 1.

"We were in good shape," said Andy Anderson, Varibus fuel contract consultant, "until Thanksgiving Day that is." Anderson explained that nearly all of the major work had been completed. A trench, 3400 feet long, 25 feet deep and 100 feet wide was carved out of the river bottom. Since the normal depth of the river at

this point is approximately 75 feet at its maximum, the six pipelines actually rested some 100 feet below the surface of the river. "About the only major item left undone was to have the divers inspect the pipe in the trench, then we would have let the river silt cover it up."

On Thanksgiving Day, at approximately 10:45 a.m., all that suddenly changed.

A Nigerian freighter, the Captain W. D. Cargill, was moving down river from Baton Rouge when she apparently began to experience steering problems.

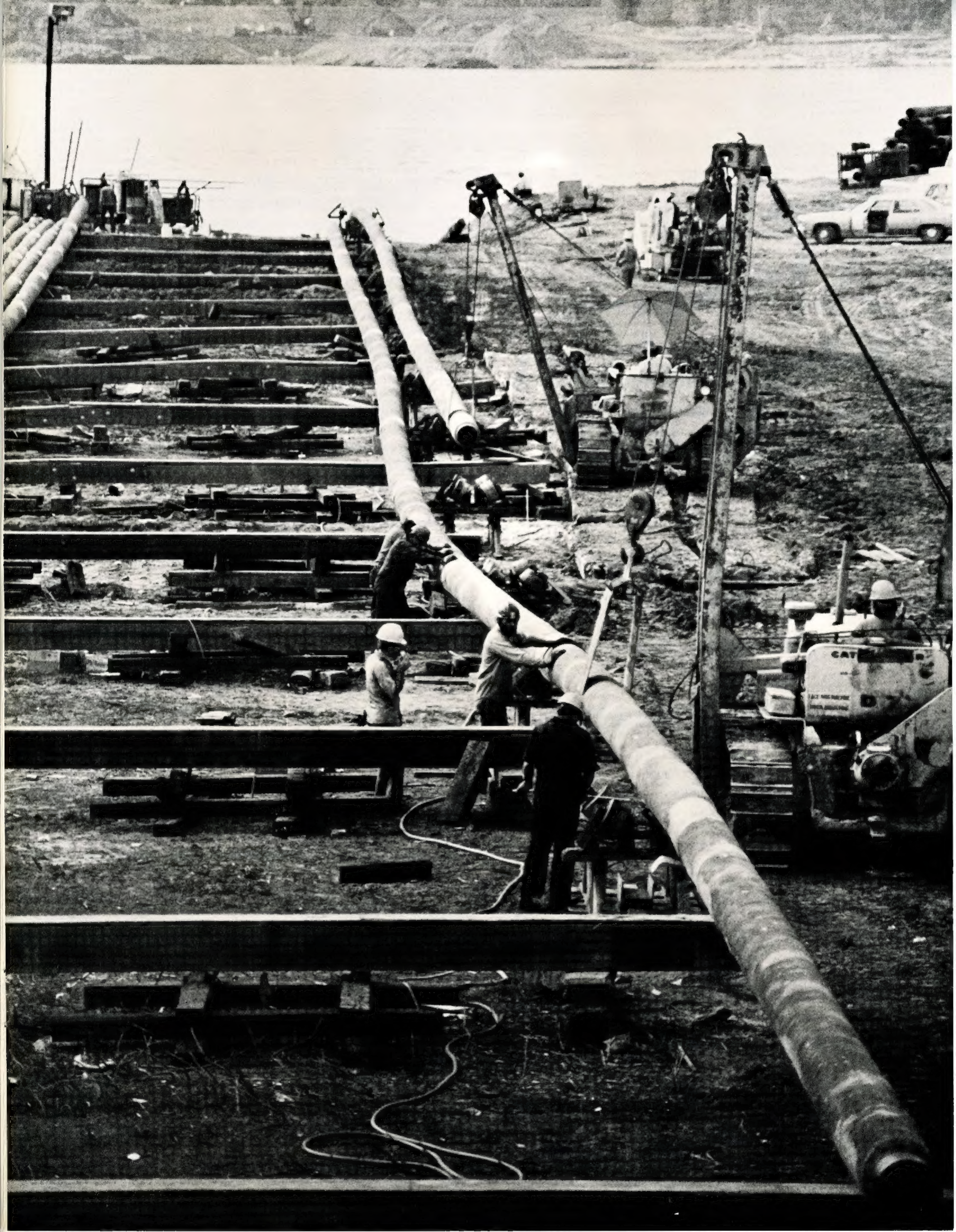
"From what we know about the accident at this point," said Anderson, "the ship dropped one of her anchors to drag bottom in an attempt to slow down and gain some control. A little later she dropped her other anchor. Somewhere along the way one anchor, and some 700 feet of chain, separated from the ship for some reason. The second anchor continued to drag bottom until the ship passed over our river crossing."

The dragging anchor ripped into the six pipelines, punctured one and severely damaged the other five to the extent they will all have to be pulled and replaced. At the time of the collision this anchor and chain also separated from the freighter and remained lodged in the trench with the pipe.

GSU was notified of the accident and the fact that the freighter continued on down the river, apparently regaining her steering, and continuing her voyage . . . but minus two anchors.

Varibus and Big Three, at this writing, have not made a decision as yet whether to replace the pipelines immediately, or wait until later in the year.

Original plans had called for the total project to be completed by September 1, 1977, at which time Willow Glen would begin receiving gas as per a transportation agreement with LIGC.



Hello Alaska, Houston Calling

Long Range Communications Made Easier Via Earth Stations

Twenty two thousand three hundred miles straight up is the heart of a business described by a man named Clay Kinne, in the understatement of the year, as "a long haul transmission system."

Kinne, Houston district manager of RCA American Communications, Inc., actually is busily engaged in setting up a commercial communications operation which utilizes two orbiting satellites. By doing so, a client in Houston can reach one of its field offices anywhere on the North American continent, including Alaska and Hawaii . . . instantaneously.

"The benefit of this kind of communications is readily apparent," said Kinne. "For example, suppose Shell Oil Company wants to get in contact with a crew on the north slope of Alaska. Shell merely feeds us the information. Then we feed our earth station, which in turn transmits it to one of two satellites. The satellites take the signal and re-transmit it down to the appropriate receiving station. In this case it would be the earth station at Prudhoe Bay, on the coast of the Arctic Ocean."

"Earth Station?" asks PLAIN TALKS.

"RCA Americom," explains Kinne, "has a number of earth stations located strategically throughout the U.S., with more being constructed every day. Just this September we dedicated our earth station, which we call Rayburn Earth Station. It's located a little west of Cleveland just off highway 105. Gulf States provides us with the electric energy we need to operate. Simply put, the earth station is the transmitting and receiving end of communications to and from this area."

Houston was chosen as a satellite central location for obvious reasons. "It's a natural market for fast, dependable communications to distant regions because of the petroleum industry here, and because it's the location of NASA's manned space center."

Various kinds of communications that can be transmitted to the satellites are voice grade circuits, data circuits, computer interphases, high speed data such as is required by NASA and television video.

The availability of Americom's communications system has been well received by various businesses in Houston. In operation for only a month, several oil companies, various banks, data communications companies, insurance companies, and brokerage firms have shown a decided interest.

Clay Kinne, District Manager



The satellites themselves are RCA owned and operated. NASA launched the satellites. Satcom II, the one most used by Houston Satellite Central, was launched in March and is in a fixed orbit south of Los Angeles and over the Pacific Ocean. It weighs about 1000 pounds, and roughly resembles a five foot diameter cube. Two wing-like solar panels extend outward from the body. They contain some 75 square feet of silicon solar cells to collect energy from the sun. The cells produce 740 watts of power for operation.

Satcom II has 24 transponders which receive signals, changes frequencies and retransmits back to earth. Each transponder has the capability of handling 1,200 telephone circuits, or one TV video transmission. Satcom II, like its twin Satcom I, is the latest in sophistication and is capable of twice the work of other satellites.

The Rayburn Earth Station near Cleveland is dominated by a huge 43 foot diameter disc antenna, with a central projection in the center of the disc aiming at Satcom II. Inside the building a large central room is loaded with various electronic panels and equipment. A control panel similar in appearance to that of a modern electric power plant, monitors the equipment, the satellite, and maintains communications with other earth stations as well as Houston Central.

Paul Patrick, Earth Station supervisor, heads up a team of six technicians who operate the station around the clock.

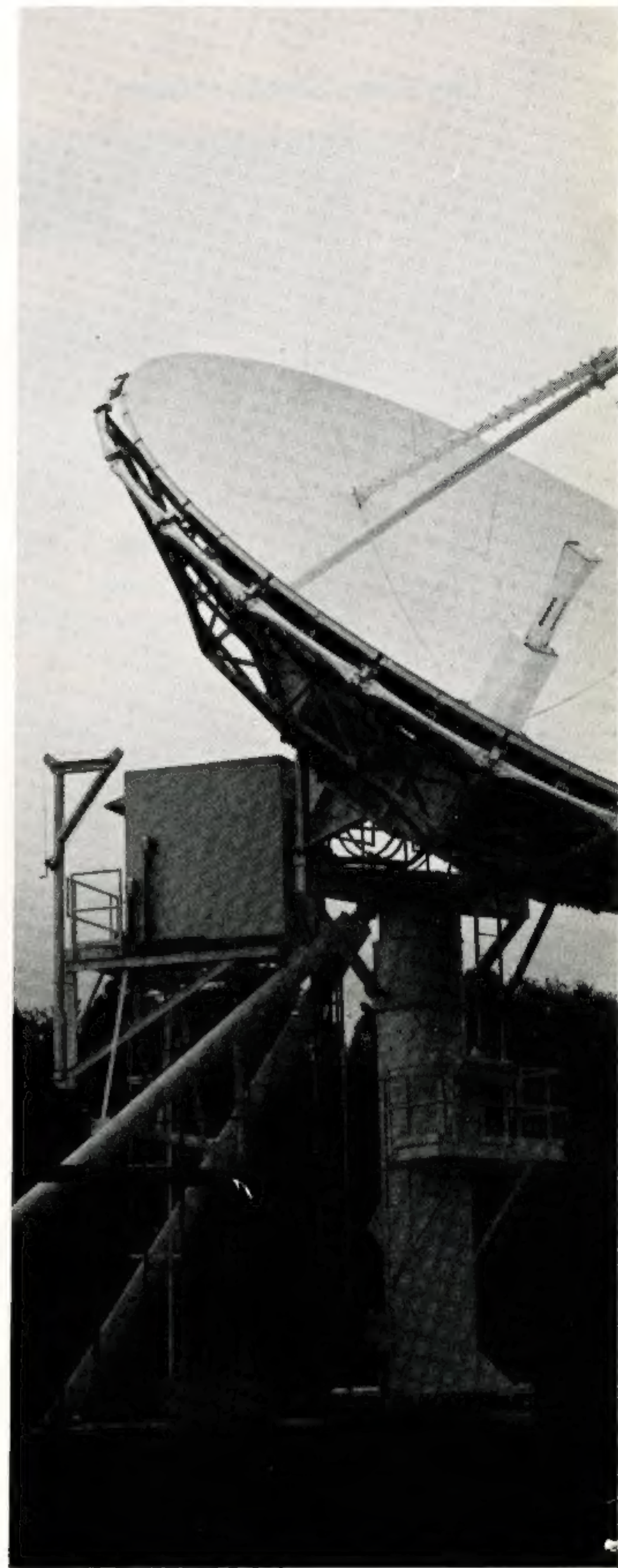
"Asked if the local populace had bombarded them with questions concerning the futuristic installation, Patrick replied, "no, not really. But the station has become a popular dropping off place for kittens."

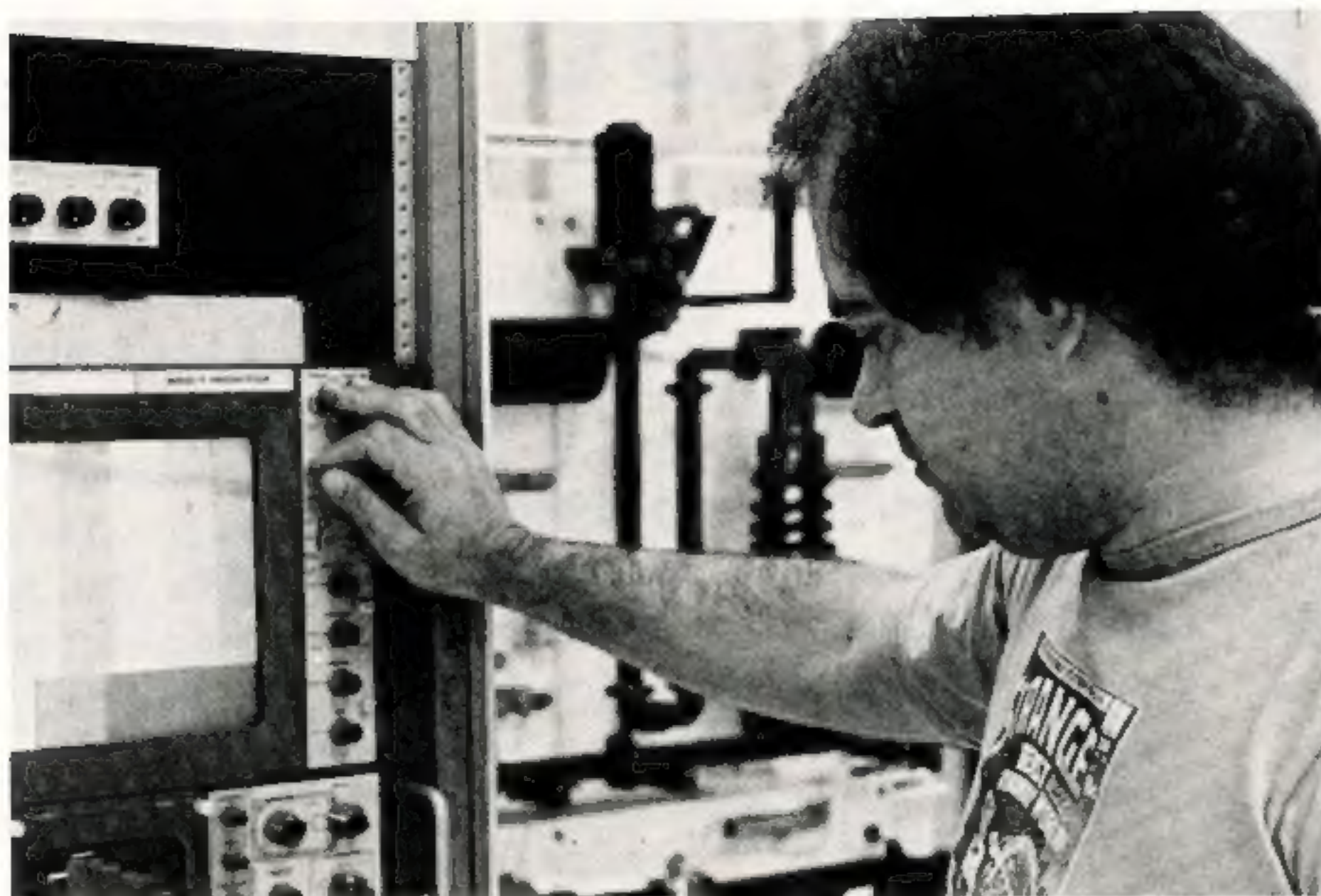
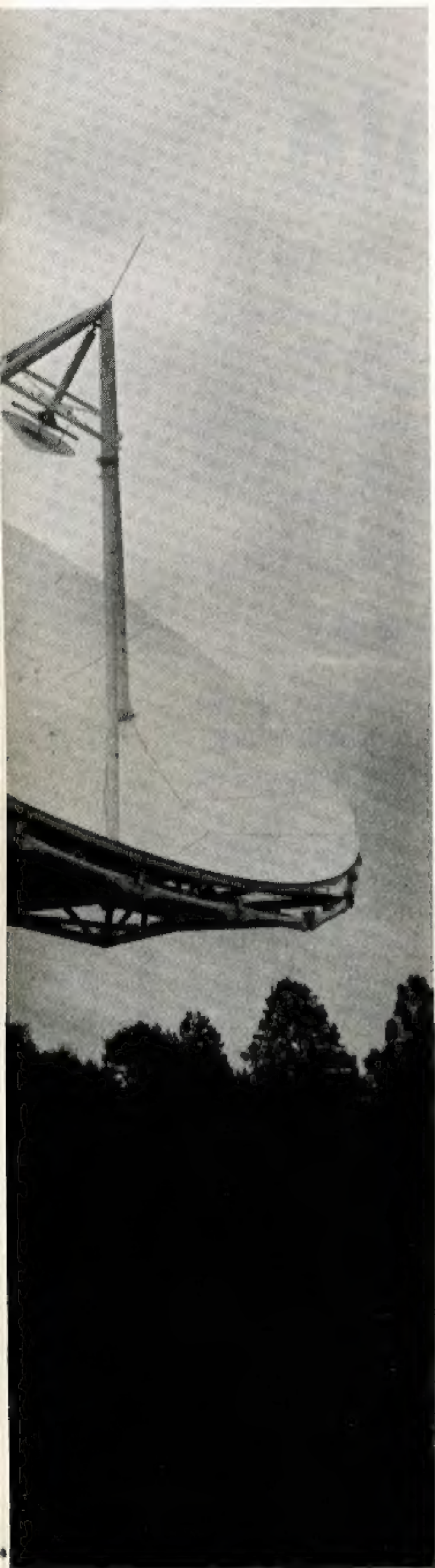
Patrick explained that any transmission, be it a Houston Oiler football game or data, could be broadcast through the station for national distribution, or simply directed to another earth station somewhere for local reception.

"High atop the 51 story Shell One Plaza building in downtown Houston is a microwave antenna which is used by Houston Central to send or receive any transmission to here. We have a microwave antenna as well. The information we get to send or receive is then put through these machines for transmission to the satellite. It's pretty much automatic, and it takes only some 18 people, here and in Houston, to effectively operate," Patrick said.

In spite of all the sophistication, Rayburn Earth Station still needs one more item. As PLAIN TALKS was leaving, Patrick put in an order to get some flood lights at the site. "It sure gets dark out here," Patrick concluded.

PLAIN TALKS delivered the request. It still takes the electric company for that.





While the huge disc antenna of Rayburn Earth Station is positioned to send and receive information to a satellite over the equator, Nick Klonaris (Earth Station Technician) adjusts video equipment prior to transmission. Below, Paul Patrick, Earth Station Supervisor, talks with Houston Central via a more conventional method.



Future Construction, Fuel Efforts Must Be Flexible

Gulf States enters 1977 with a construction budget estimated to be a little over \$300 million, and with a flexibility that will allow the Company to more easily adapt to changing conditions.

The need for this flexibility can be readily seen when you consider what has taken place in just the past several years. Fluctuating fuel prices, construction delays, the yo-yo activity of the economy, regulatory contingencies and the unstableness of the fossil fuel availability picture, all join together to make this latter part of the decade a time to be paradoxically aggressive, yet cautious.

In 1976 GSU had estimated the peak load to be 8.8 percent higher than in 1975. The 4,162 megawatt peak actually was only 4.6 percent over 1975 due to projected industrial loads which did not come on line because of construction delays. Those projected increases now appear to be ready to come on line in 1977, which is why the Company is predicting a peak this year of 4,482 some 7.7 percent greater than 1976.

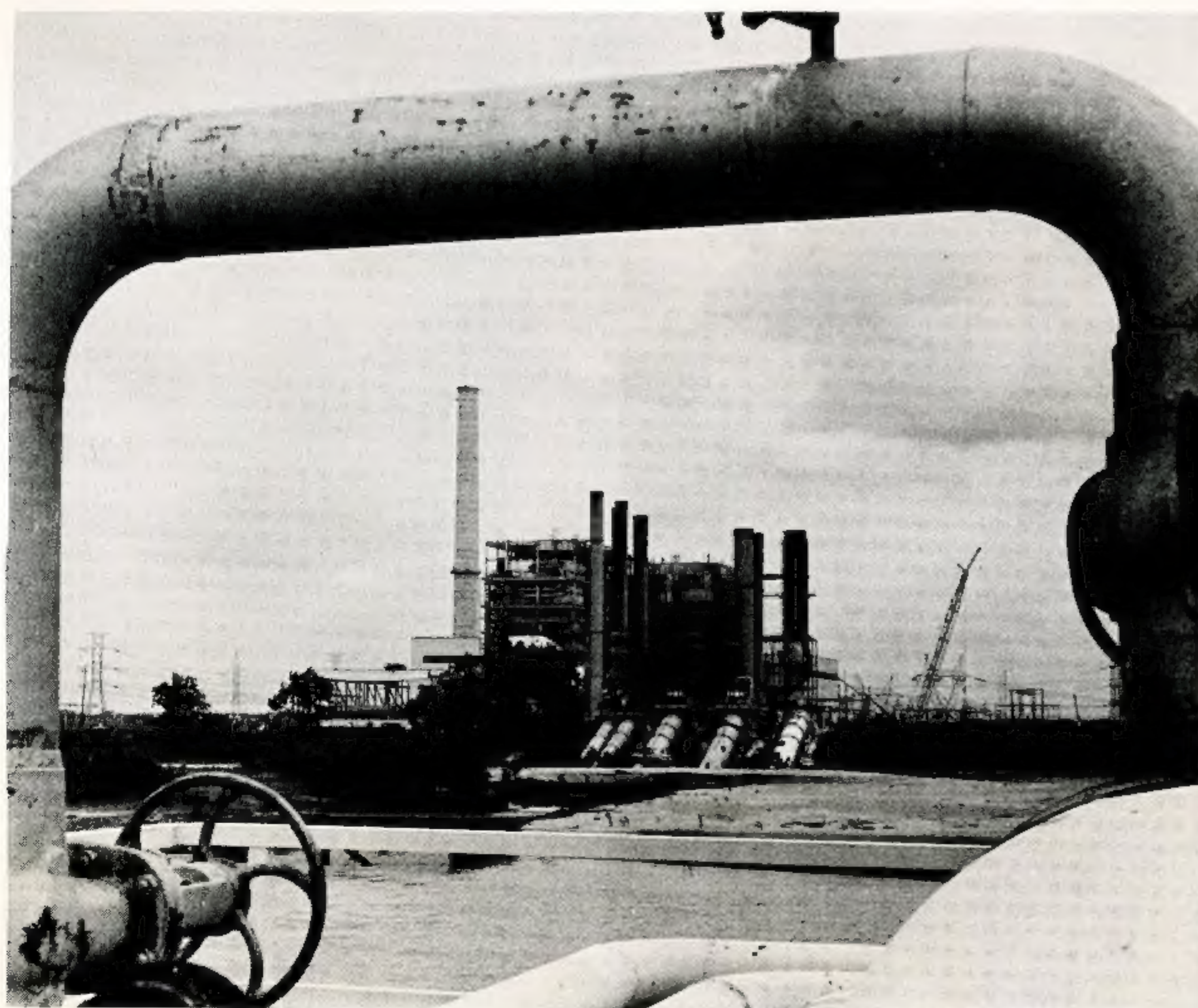
Currently, Sabine #5, a 480 megawatt oil/gas unit is scheduled to go on line in 1979. River Bend Station #1, a 940 megawatt nuclear fueled unit is

scheduled for 1981, with the second 940mw unit set for 1983. Roy S. Nelson Station units #4 and #5, two 540 megawatt coal units are expected to go on line in 1985 and 1986. Blue Hills Station, designed for two 930 megawatt nuclear fueled units, has been deferred until 1989 and 1991.

Conversion of Units

Approximately three years ago the Company initiated a program to convert seven of its gas fired units in Louisiana to oil/gas capability. This was deemed necessary because the Company's principal supplier of natural gas, United Gas Pipeline Company, began a curtailment program. Work has been suspended on five of those units at this time because the Company has been able to purchase adequate supplies of gas on a short term basis to permit split-firing the units with gas-oil. The cost of conversion of all seven units is estimated to be in the neighborhood of \$92 million, including costs for environmental control equipment necessary. In addition, some of the Company's Texas units may undergo conversion to burn oil, coal and/or lignite in the 1980's. This will depend entirely on the availability of natural gas at that time.

Willow Glen #5 is the first unit in the system to be constructed using oil as the primary fuel source. Willow Glen #3 is presently being converted to dual capability, as is Nelson #4. It is at these two stations that the Company maintains storage facilities for fuel oil on a large scale. In September, the Company had an oil inventory on hand at these stations which was in excess of the largest monthly requirements for the



Willow Glen Station

supply of oil expected during 1977, and plans to retain an inventory of oil which approximately equals a 30 day supply for each facility.

1976 Fuel Costs

An indication of just how much more it is costing GSU to operate today than it did five years ago is a comparison of fuel costs since 1971. Looking at the chart below you can see that the cost of using natural gas per kilowatt hour was approximately three times less than it is today.

The cost of natural gas and fuel oil experienced since 1971 has been as follows:

	Weighted Average Cost per KWH	Natural Gas Cost per KWH	Fuel Oil Cost per KWH
1971	.213¢	.213¢	.352¢
1972	.237¢	.232¢	.781¢
1973	.398¢	.287¢	1.078¢
1974	.647¢	.402¢	2.759¢
1975	.593¢	.515¢	2.653¢
Twelve Months Ended September 30, 1976	737¢	.632¢	1.903¢

Rate Increases

At this writing, the Louisiana Public Service Commission is still pondering the Company's general electric rate increase application, which, if granted in full, would produce additional annual revenues of \$23.8 million. The Company also filed a rate increase request for its gas operations which would realize additional revenues of \$2.1 million if granted in full.

The LPSC planned to hold its final hearings on the matter in mid-December,

and a decision was expected before the new year.

A general rate increase was placed into effect in most areas of Texas system beginning July 1, 1976. This increase is expected to produce additional revenues in excess of \$13 million.

Future Fuel Availability

Boiler gas for GSU's power plants in Texas is provided under contracts with EXXON and Texas Intrastate Gas Company, both of which run until January 1, 1985.

The Company is currently looking at a

potential problem which may, or may not, occur in the maintaining of these contracts due to an order issued by the Texas Railroad Commission. In part, this order states that gas suppliers must reduce their outflow by 10 percent of their 1974 or 1975 consumption, whichever is greater, before Jan. 1, 1981 to all customers who use that gas as boiler fuel. The TRC has reserved the right to grant exemptions where it determines that it is in the public interest for natural gas to be used as boiler fuel.

(Continued on following page)



Roy S. Nelson Station

Retired Beaumont Employee

Six Weeks In America's Last Frontier

Carl Sawyer and his wife, Herselle, are one couple who are taking full advantage of their "golden years."

Retired in 1972 from Appliance Repair in Beaumont, the Sawyers recently returned from a six week tour to Alaska. Along the way they were snow bound in Wyoming, traveled the Alcan Highway through the Yukon, camped near the Alaskan pipeline and traveled aboard a deep water Alaskan ferry through some of the most magnificent scenery in the world.

Their trip began in June leaving Beaumont on the 14th and pulling a 21 foot travel trailer. Their adventures began almost immediately. On the fourth night out, not far from DuBois, Wyo., the Sawyers pulled off the highway in a heavy rain to spend the night. "When we awakened," said Sawyer, "it was cold and I tried to light the furnace to get some heat." When his attempts failed he opened the door to check outside and found some 14 inches of snow had fallen during the night. They were literally stranded on the open highway.

"Good luck came along quickly," said Sawyer. "A local rancher was out in a four wheel drive pick up truck checking on his stock and found us. He used the truck to make a path through the snow back to the highway so we could pull out." The Sawyers backtracked to DuBois where they waited several hours so snow plows could clear the mountain pass through which they had to travel. Finally the trip continued with Yellowstone National Park as the next stop. Glacier National Park in Montana was the next stop, before crossing into Canada.

Two days later they reached Dawson Creek in British Columbia which marked the beginning of the Alaskan Highway. Sawyer described the Alcan Highway as 1200 miles of rock, mud, dust and some pavement. "Sometimes we could drive only as fast as five miles per hour. For the next four days I guess we averaged about 300 miles per day." They didn't travel a paved highway until they reached the Alaskan border. "I sure was glad to see that border," said Sawyer.

Arriving in Fairbanks the Sawyers

were the guests of Dr. London Smith and his son Carl. After a few enjoyable days in Fairbanks, the Sawyers headed for Mt. McKinley National Park and a seven hour tour there. Mt. McKinley is the highest peak in North America at 20,320 feet.

"The scenery was absolutely beautiful," said Sawyer. "We saw grizzlies (from a safe distance), caribou, mountain goats, moose and other wildlife."

Anchorage was the next stop, and after spending a couple days seeing the vicinity, traveled on to a small town called Glennallen near the route of the Alaskan pipeline. While in the area the Sawyers sold their trailer to an employee on the pipeline, but not before the buyer insisted they see the scenery around the pipeline terminal at Valdez.

Later, now minus the trailer, the Sawyers took the ferry Taku from Haines to Prince Rupert, Canada. But when the ferry reached Juneau, the Sawyers and some other passengers were put off (as stand by passengers) and told to await further instructions.

The Sawyers were told that another ferry, the Columbia, was leaving for Seattle and that they could possibly catch it. So the Sawyers drove some 13 miles to Auke Bay. They arrived in time to board, but found that all sleeping accommodations were taken. The Sawyers boarded anyway and spent the next four days sleeping on available couches. Several hundred other passengers had to do the same thing, and actually pitched tents.

"One thing about the ferry ride," said Sawyer, "we certainly have some memories and the scenery was unbelievably beautiful."

Alaska, the last American frontier, is worth the effort to see. "Everyone is missing something if they don't make this trip," said Sawyer. "In fact, we're planning on going back in about three months."

(Continued from page 9)

Future Construction, Fuel Efforts Must Be Flexible

Gulf States, at this time, is unable to predict the effect of that ruling or future rulings dealing with curtailments. But if the curtailment does take place, it may require GSU to convert some of its generating units in Texas to a continuous oil burning as well as gas burning capability. In such case the capital costs of such conversions would be substantial and would result in increased operating costs.

The remainder of the decade, what happens, and how the Company meets the challenges we suspect are coming, is going to make the next five years very interesting.

Successful Blood Drive Is Concluded

"When you dole out over 1000 pints of blood a month, it doesn't take long before you have to go back to the market. And in our case, it's a continuous process."

And in this particular case, Carol Weatherall, Recruiting Coordinator for Southeast Texas Blood Bank, found a good market in the employees of GSU in Beaumont.

Employees at the main office, Neches Station, the Beaumont Service Center and the Orange District office all chipped in to help make the blood donation drive work.

"Actually," said Ward McCurtain, Beaumont Division manager, "the blood given not only will help the 18 hospitals in the Golden Triangle, but us as well. Forty percent participation will insure that all our division employees are 'blood insured' for a year. If they need it, they get it . . . at no cost."

The blood drive campaign is part of an all-industry wide project initiated by the Blood Bank. According to Weatherall, such major industries as Dupont, Mobil, Gulf, Goodyear, GSU and many others have participated. "It's a way for the employee to insure himself or his immediate family for blood should it be necessary," said Weatherall. "And it certainly helps us. Not only must we provide the blood for all the hospitals, but outlying areas of the Golden Triangle as well."

Dorothy Nowell, Division Operations, helped set up the blood center in the auditorium of the main office, and coordinated at what times the various floors would send donors. "It all went pretty well," she said.

Asked if anyone fainted, one of the Blood Bank attendants said, "You always have people who are going to faint for one reason or another. Most of the time it's because they try to get up too soon, and you just can't do that. Being afraid has nothing to do with it really. Some people just react that way, afraid or not."



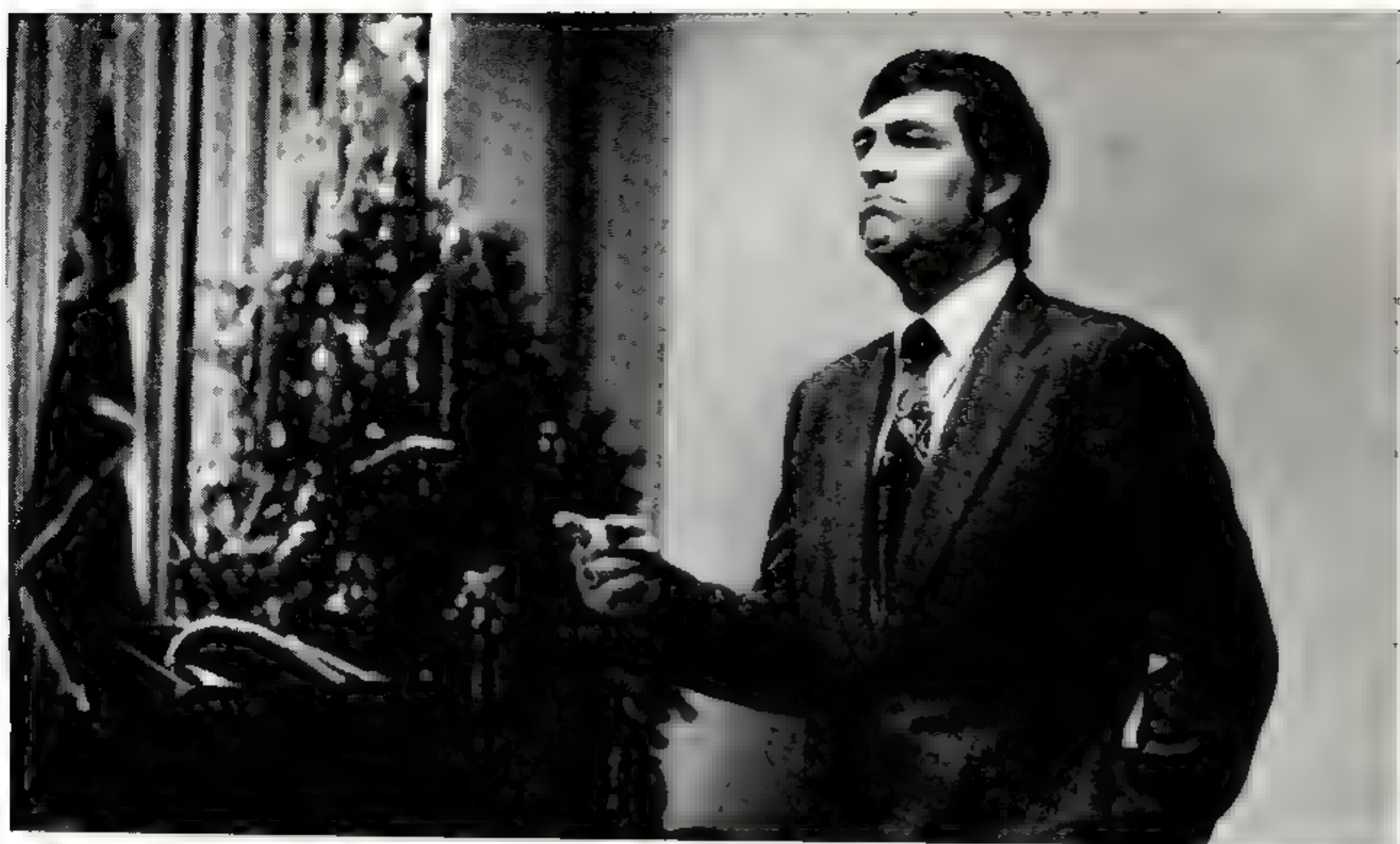
BLOOD DRIVE—Bert Rogers, supervisor of Records Management in Beaumont, was just one of 167 main office employees to participate in a blood drive sponsored by the Blood Bank of Southeast Texas. The bank also visited Neches Station, and has plans to go to Orange and the Beaumont Service Center. Forty percent participation by GSU will insure all GSU employees in the area of free blood if needed.

THRIFT PLAN

Purchases of Gulf States Utilities Company stock made by the Trustee during November, 1976 covering employee deductions and Company contributions through October, 1976 were as follows:

Type of Stock	Number Shares	Total Cost	Average Cost per Share
Common	7,301	\$104,760.05	\$14.349
\$4.40	30	1,628.50	54.283
Number Shares	Date Purchased	Per Share Price	Total Cost
1,207	11/15/76	14 1/8	\$17,048.90
2,000	11/8/76	14 1/8	28,621.48
2,000	11/12/76	14 1/4	28,860.00
2,000	11/12/76	14 1/4	28,860.00
94	11/12/76	14 1/4	1,369.67
7,301			\$104,760.05
\$4.40 Preferred Stock:			
18	11/15/76	53 1/2	963.00
10	11/15/76	53 1/2	551.00
2	11/15/76	52 1/4	114.50
30			\$ 1,628.50

The Trustee deposited \$101,604.83 with the Savings Department of the First Security National Bank.



CLINCH RIVER—Peter Van Nort, general manager of Clinch River Breeder Reactor Project, was on hand recently to update GSUers and interested parties on progress of the venture.

Clinch River Status Told



DIRECTOR—Edward M. Loggins, manager of the Western Division, has been elected to the Board of Directors of the Commerce National Bank in Conroe. The announcement was made by Robert N. Jones, president of the bank. Since becoming head of the Western Division in December of 1975, Loggins has become a member of the board of the American Cancer Society, board member of the Montgomery County United Way, has joined the Rotary Club, Conroe Tigers Booster Club, YMCA, Chamber of Commerce and the Panorama Country Club.

Peter Van Nort, general manager of the Clinch River Breeder Reactor Plant (CRBRP) project currently underway at Oak Ridge, Tenn., told a large gathering of Gulf Staters and interested parties that significant progress has been made on the \$1.95 billion undertaking.

Van Nort said that all major hardware for this nation's first large-scale liquid metal fast breeder reactor demonstration plant had been placed under contract, and in many cases, was in some stage of fabrication. Preliminary design work has been completed and work is now well underway on the final design. "We expect to receive a limited work authorization from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission in the Spring. And we hope," said Van Nort, "that actual construction can begin in 1978."

Gulf States is one of 740 electric utility systems across the nation that has a vested interest in the Clinch River Breeder Reactor. In the last 10 years the Company has invested over \$3 million toward the project in an effort to help solve the nation's energy problem.

The breeder, if proven commercially feasible, represents a way to generate electricity practically forever. The very concept of the reactor is such that it will produce more fuel than it uses by converting otherwise worthless uranium-238 into plutonium-239, which can be used as reactor fuel.

Retirements



Newman Bankston



Eddie Smith

Newman B. Bankston, turbine water plant operator at Louisiana Station, retired Feb. 1, after 32 years of service.

Employed in 1944 as a helper in production at Louisiana Station, he advanced to auxiliary operator in 1945, and in 1947 was promoted to turbine operator. A short time later he transferred to water plant operator, and then was promoted to turbine water plant operator.

Bankston is a native of Independence, La.

Eddie C. Smith, helper in Transmission and Distribution Department in Port Arthur, retired Dec. 1, after 24 years of service.

Smith spent his career in the Port Arthur Division with assignments in the Line Department, Storeroom, and in the Port Arthur main office.

Smith is a native of Navasota, and a graduate of the Port Arthur Adult School.

Says EL&P

Commercial Breeder Reactor Program May Never Pass

The day of the commercial fast breeder reactor in this country may never come to pass. So states a story in the November issue of Electric Light & Power magazine.

EL&P, in an in-depth analysis by its senior editor, Robert Smock, says the FBR program "has a more fundamental difficulty" than the well known problems such as fears of economics, anti-nuke activists and so on. The basic problem is "related to the utility industry that if left unsolved will make the breeder an empty dream."

Smock is talking about the fact that there really isn't a "program" per se at all. At least not one dedicated to the adoption of fast breeders.

"Many in the utility industry believe," writes Smock, "the federal Energy Research & Development Administration (ERDA) is committed to developing a commercial breeder economy. It isn't. ERDA isn't even willing to pay the

total cost of the R&D program that ERDA itself says is required to demonstrate the existence of commercial breeder technology. Unless there is a major financial commitment from the private sector—the electric utility industry in particular—the breeder program will die."

In a side-bar story in the same issue, EL&P points out that President-elect Jimmy Carter "may put the breeder program in more trouble than it's in already."

EL&P reminds us that during the Carter campaign Carter made it clear he didn't favor liquid-sodium fast breeder technology. Carter pointed out that he was a naval officer on a crew that built the second atomic submarine, SEA WOLF, which used liquid sodium as a heat transfer agent. It ultimately was changed out to liquid water.

"I think we ought to minimize our effort in the LMFBR," said Carter.

DEATHS



James A. Rathcke

James A. Rathcke, mechanical maintenance foreman at Louisiana Station, died November 25, in Baton Rouge.

Rathcke had been an employee of the Company since 1959. His entire career was spent at Louisiana Station on various maintenance assignments. He was promoted to foreman in 1972.

A Baton Rouge native, Rathcke was a veteran of the Air Force, and attended Louisiana State University. He was married to the former Betty Jane Mackey of Tupelo, Miss. He is survived by his wife and three children, Tina Marie, Terry Adam and Michael James.

Following is a letter written by Mrs. Rathcke. It is addressed to "All our Friends at Gulf States Utilities."

This letter is so inadequate to express our deepest gratitude to each and every one of you for your thoughts, concerns and prayers shown to us during Jim's illness and upon his death.

Jim was so very proud to be a part of such a fine company as GSU and the many friendships that resulted, not only in Louisiana, but Texas as well, will always be a big part of all our lives.

May God bless each of you. We know that as long as Jim's memory is kept alive in our hearts, he will always be with us.

*Love,
Betty Rathcke
and children*



A LIFE SAVER—A. D. "Smitty" Smith, second from left, is congratulated by GSU President Norman Lee for earning the Presidential Life Saving Award. Looking on, second from right, is Mike Durham, safety director, and Neches Station plant superintendent Gandy Hall. Smith is a mechanical maintenance helper at Neches. On Aug. 29, he is credited with saving the life of Mrs. Florence Coleman, of Beaumont, by administering heart massage when she apparently suffered "some kind of attack" and stopped breathing. Smitty said past resuscitation training at company safety meetings is what gave him the knowledge to do what he did.

PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

Grady M. Smith and Prentice W. Ward have received promotions within the Tax Services Department in Beaumont.

Smith, a former senior tax accountant, has been promoted to coordinator-tax application, while Ward (former depreciation analyst) was promoted to senior valuation analyst.

Smith, a native of Daingerfield, Tex., and a 24-year veteran of the Company, was employed in 1952 as senior accounting clerk. In 1958 he was promoted to accountant and transferred to Plant Accounting, and in 1969 moved to Order Processing as supervisor. He joined Tax Services as tax accountant in 1972.

He is a 1953 graduate of Lamar University with a degree in business, and is a two year veteran of the Army. He is married to the former Nelda Faye Baxley, and the couple has one daughter, Glenda.

Ward, a native of Tyler, Tex., has been an employee since 1957 when hired as senior accounting clerk in Beaumont. He has served as an accountant in various departments including Plant Accounting, Vouchers and Classification. In 1972 he was promoted to rate analyst in the Rates Department, and in 1975 joined Tax Services as depreciation analyst.

Ward is a 1956 graduate of the University of Texas with a degree in business, and is a three year veteran of the Air Force. He is married to the former Imogene Poindexter of Colmesneil, Tex., and the couple has one son, John.

Active in professional organizations, Ward is project chairman of the Edison Electric Institute Depreciation Committee, and a member of the American Gas Association.

As project chairman, Ward will deliver a paper on Regulatory Decisions, before a gathering of EEI members at the National Accounting Conference slated for Dearborn, Mich. in the spring of this year.

The Wards are also active in church activities where he serves as Deacon at the Woodlawn Baptist Church, and his wife as PTA chairwoman.

John H. Zemanek, former engineer in Transmission Planning, has been promoted to division engineer and transferred to Port Arthur replacing Mike Durham, who was transferred to Beaumont and promoted to Safety Director.

Zemanek, a 1971 graduate of Texas A&M University with bachelor of science degree in electrical engineering, was employed in the Transmission and Distribution Department in Conroe following his graduation. In 1974 he was transferred to Beaumont.

A native of Blessing, Tex., Zemanek is an Engineer In Training of the Texas Society of Professional Engineers. He is also a member of Eta Kappa Nu, a national electrical engineering honor society, and Tau Beta Pi, a similar honor society.

Edward L. Foster, former engineer in Power Plant Engineering and Design, has been transferred to Neches Station in Division Production.

Foster, employed last year following his graduation from the University of Missouri at Rolla with a degree in mechanical engineering, is a native of Levenworth, Kan.

He is married to the former Patricia Houghton, of Gallatin, Mo.

Michael S. Durham, former division engineer in Port Arthur, has been promoted to Safety Director and transferred to Beaumont.

Durham, employed in 1967 following combat duty in Vietnam as a 1st Lieutenant in the Army, was initially assigned to the Transmission and Distribution Department in Baton Rouge. He was transferred to System Engineering Design in Beaumont in 1970, and in 1971 was moved into Engineering Planning.

The Crosby, Miss., native is a 1965 graduate of Louisiana State University with a bachelor of science degree in electrical engineering, and is currently working on a master's degree at Lamar University.

He is married to the former JoAnn Whitehead of Crosby, and the couple has two daughters, Amy and Michelle.

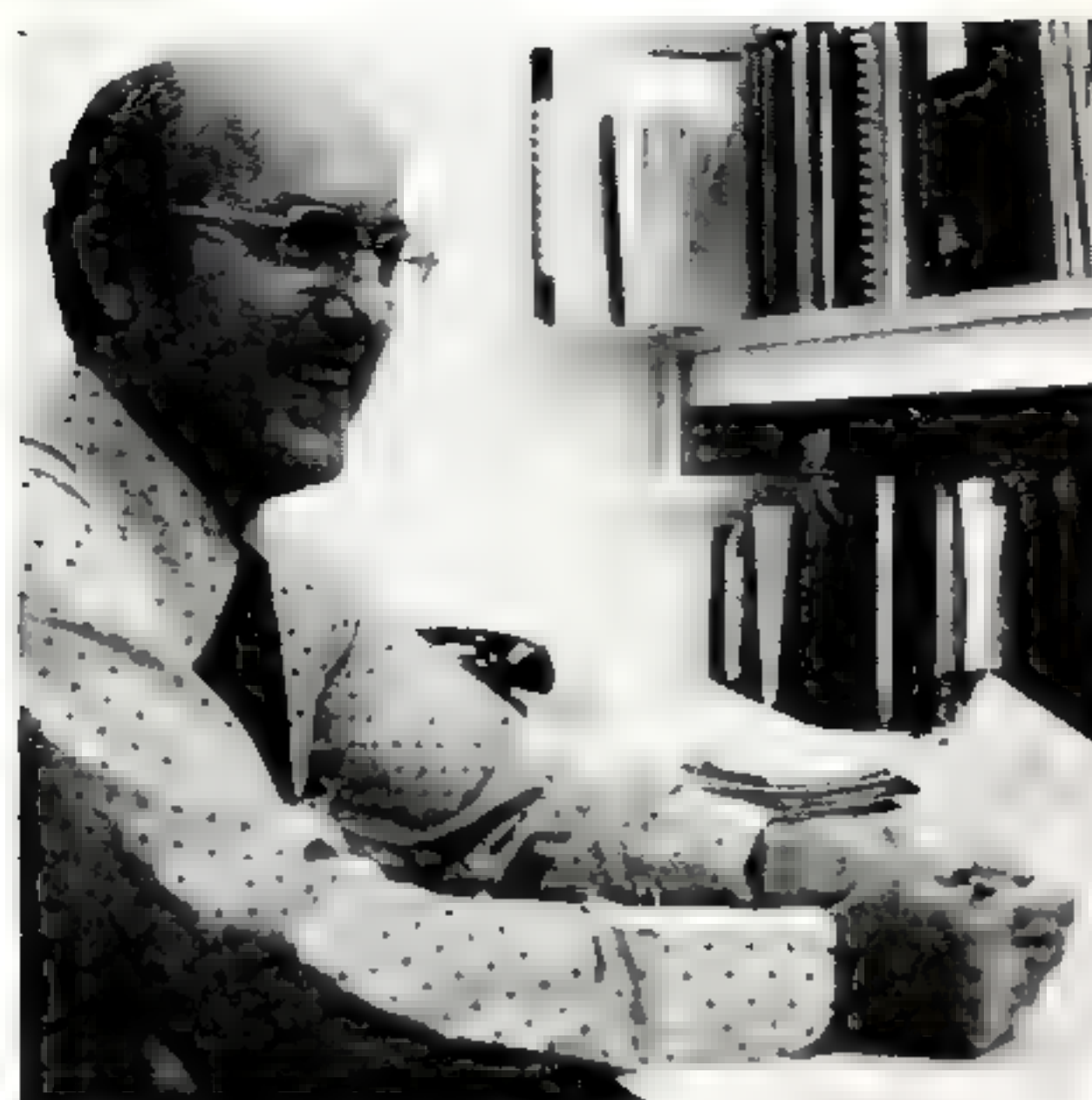
Durham was awarded the Bronze Star for valor while a member of the 18th Engineering Brigade in Vietnam, and also received a certificate of achievement. He is a member of Eta Kappa Nu, honorary electrical engineering fraternity, is a registered professional engineer in Texas and a member of the board of directors of the Live Wires Club.

Richard M. McCants, Transmission and Distribution Department in Conroe, has been promoted to utility foreman.

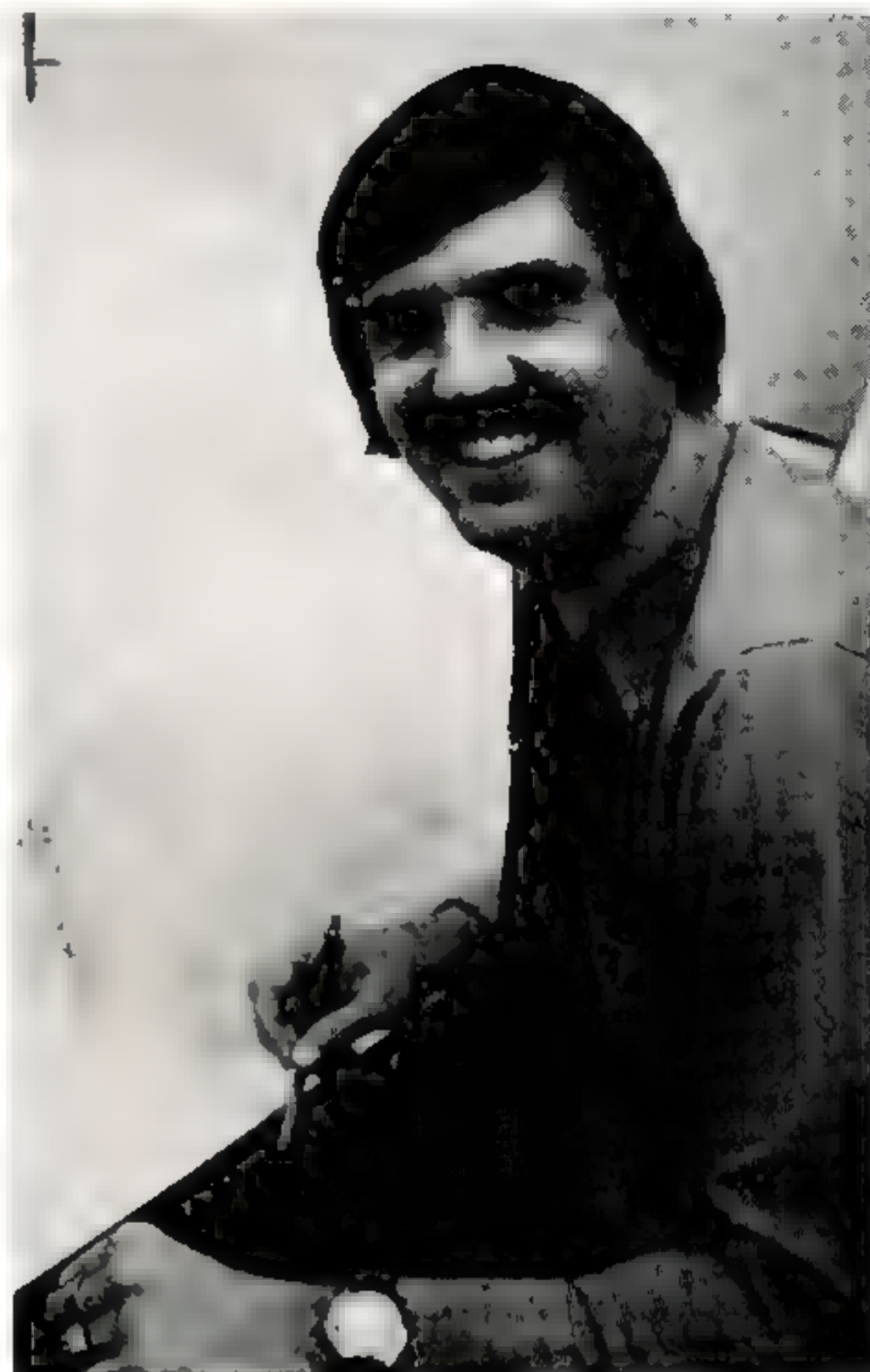
McCants, an employee since 1957 when hired as a helper in T&D in Beaumont, is a native of El Dorado, Ark. He progressed through various classifications in T&D and was transferred to Conroe in 1972.

He is married to the former Paula Brown of Beaumont, and the couple has one daughter, Jeana.

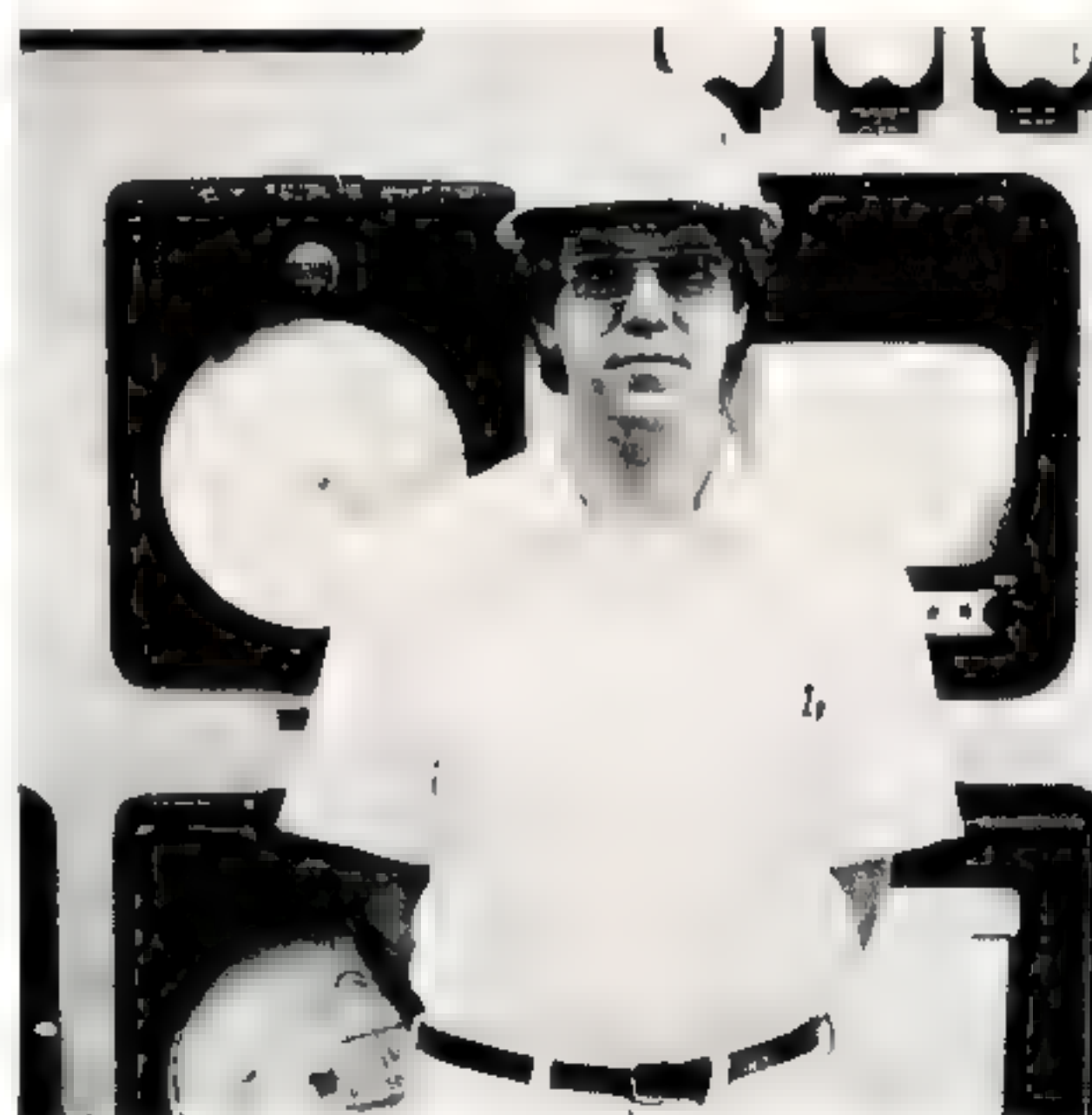
WARD



ZEMANEK



DURHAM



FOSTER



SMITH

SERVICE AWARDS

40
Years

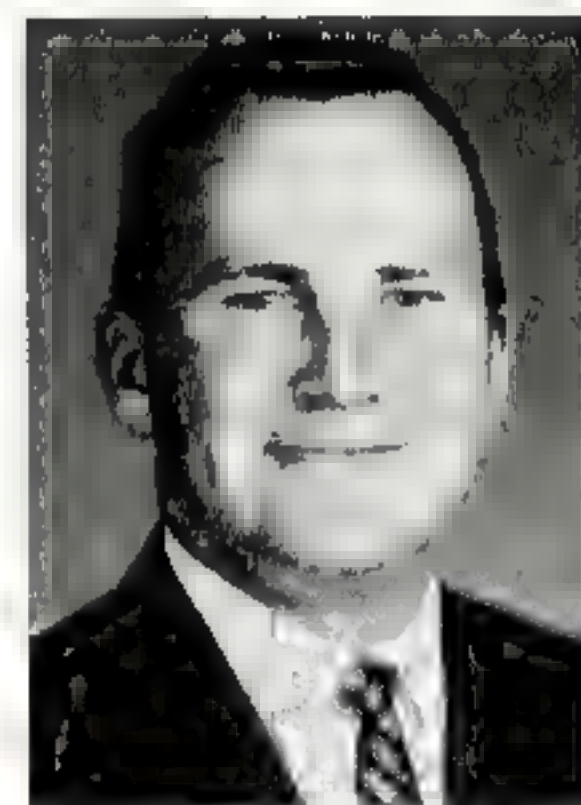


F. E. Mathis
Electric T&D
Lake Charles

20
Years



Kent R. Kirk
Electric T&D
Beaumont



John S. Koles
Electric T&D
Denham Springs

30
Years



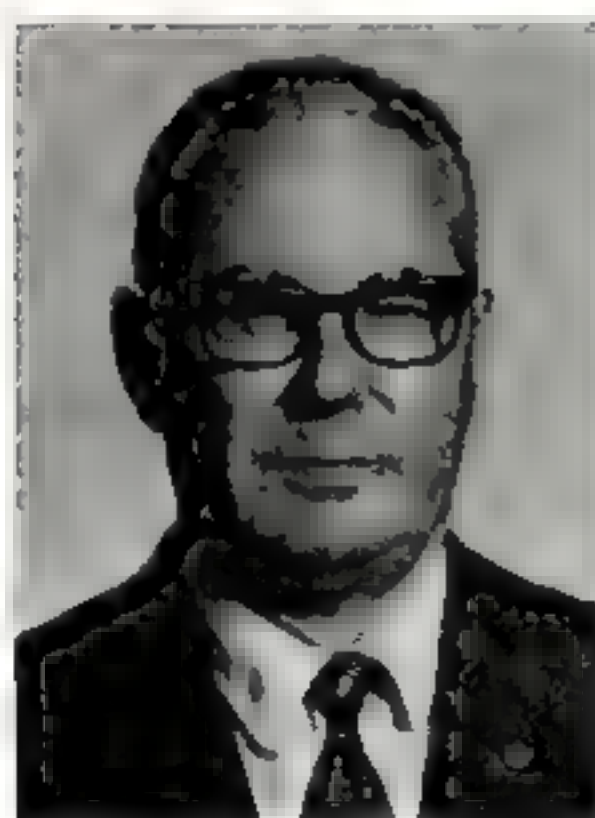
Alfred J. Bearden
Electric T&D
Beaumont



August M. Bergeron
Electric T&D
Lake Charles



Odon J. LeBlanc
Electric T&D
Jennings



Earl E. Mayfield
Division Accounting
Jennings



Hal J. Ridley
Division Production
Port Arthur

10
Years



John J. Arabie
Electric T&D
Lafayette



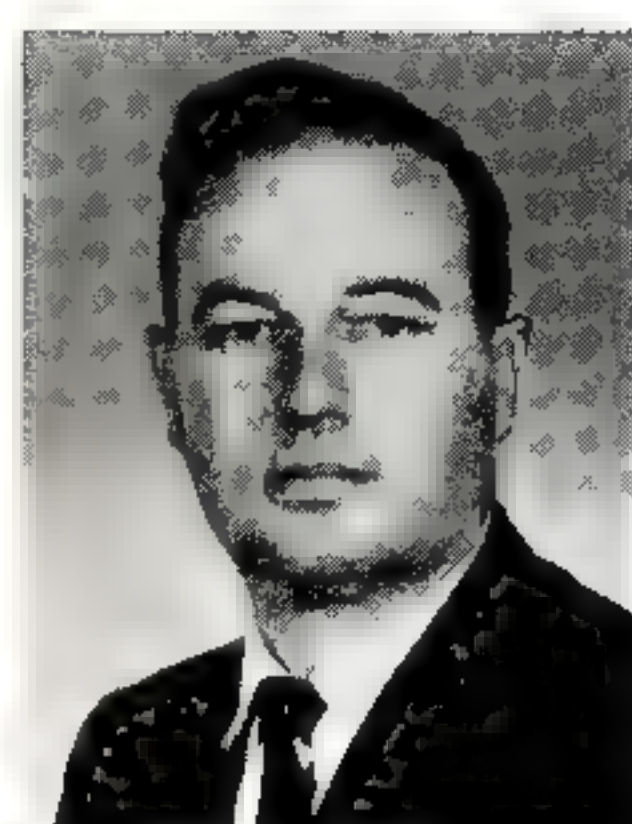
Melvin S. Cole
Eng. Stnds. & Appl.
Beaumont



Peeler O. Davidson
Electric T&D
Livonia



John W. Gross
Gas Dept.
Baton Rouge



Donald R. Hood
Division Marketing
Baton Rouge



John C. Phares Jr.
Electric T&D
Port Arthur



Bobby H. Schenk
Electric T&D
Baton Rouge



Carolyn E. Theobald
Inf. & Data Ser.
Beaumont



Harold E. Turner
Electric T&D
Baton Rouge



Jack D. Wiggins
Electric T&D
Dayton



Lamfch N. Wright
Electric T&D
Beaumont



Alvin Booker Jr.
Division Accounting
Conroe



John D. Cowart
Electric T&D
Beaumont



James M. England
Division Production
Beaumont



Van F. Graham
Division Accounting
Hull



Robert F. Hill
Division Production
Port Arthur



Morris O. Jenkins
Electric T&D
Beaumont



J. T. McGhee
Division Production
Port Arthur



Linda B. Smith
Electric T&D
Beaumont



Thomas D. Smoak
Electric T&D
Lafayette

LETTERS

Mr. V. R. Norvell
Division Superintendent of
Consumer Services
Gulf States Utilities Company
Box 158
Conroe, Texas 77301

Dear Mr. Norvell:

I wish to express my appreciation to you and Gulf States for the excellent services of Mrs. Carolyn C. Joyce, Consumer Service Advisor. She was one of our special guests today for our HNB Gold Citizen Holiday Coffee and Christmas Show and did a beautiful job. Her craft ideas and delicious refreshments as well as the Holiday Recipe Books were enjoyed by our people that attended. She is a charming person and represents your company well.

We appreciate the services which are available through your Consumer Service Program.

Sincerely,

Rose M. Coley
Assistant Vice President

Mr. Howard Mack
Operating Supervisor
Gulf States Utilities
P. O. Box 2892
Lake Charles, LA 70601

Dear Mr. Mack:

This is to thank Gulf States Utilities and your representative, Mr. Joe Cloutier, for the assistance rendered our institution following an early morning fire in our Laundry area that caused considerable damage to our electrical systems.

Mr. Cloutier conducted himself in a professional manner that reflects well on Gulf States Utilities. We are pleased to have an association with such a civic-minded organization.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely yours,

Stephen B. Collins
Executive Director

Mr. Sigsbee
Gulf States Utilities Company
Highway 75 North
Conroe, Texas 77301

Dear Mr. Sigsbee,

Your presentation yesterday was very informative and enjoyable. It was a pleasure to have you in our school. The students enjoyed and profited from your answering of their many questions.

It is a good idea that the public utility company have people such as yourself to educate and inform the public. At this time when many people are misunderstanding our energy problems, the co-operation of the public utility companies through public relations may well make citizens more aware of what they can do to help.

Again, it was a pleasure to have you talk to our students. We are looking forward to having you come again.

Sincerely,

Shirley Knight, Wayne Calhoun,
Charles Champ
Earth Science Teachers

Mr. J. S. Turner
Gulf States Utilities
P. O. Box 2951
Beaumont, Texas 77704

Dear Mr. Turner:

On behalf of the Volunteer Services Council and the Beaumont State Center, we would like to thank you and your company for your donation of pencils for our annual Halloween Carnival. This special project for the clients at the Center and the Outreach Units was a huge success; they enjoyed themselves very much.

We would like to express our appreciation for your interest in the mentally retarded of our community, and thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

R. Edward Dix, Chairman
Volunteer Services Council

(Mrs.) Beverly Roney, CAVS
Administrator, Volunteer Services

Helping Hand Is Remembered

Dickey Studensky, a meter reader in Sour Lake, is establishing a reputation to be envied by us all. Once again he lent a helping hand to someone in need. The result of that deed brought about this letter:

Dear Gulf States:

I am writing to tell you what a kind and helpful employee you have working for your company.

I was on highway 365 last Friday about 3 p.m. and had a tire on my car blow out. I had no spare, and was in great distress. Then along came Dick Studensky. I sure was glad to see that GSU sign on the side of the truck, I knew I would get safe help.

He took me to Nome (a small town) so I could call my husband, and I was home by 6:30. I was alone on a lonely highway and only God knows what could have happened if Dick had not come by.

I want you to thank him for me for his kind, safe help. We need a lot more men in this world that you can trust like Dick.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Paul Searl

Reporters

When you have any news or a story you think would be interesting to other Gulf Staters, contact the reporter nearest to you, or write or call the **PLAIN TALKS** editor, Pat McMeel, in Beaumont. Notify **PLAIN TALKS** reporters of any event that is happening in your area that the magazine should cover. A complete list of reporters and their locations is given below. If any persons named are no longer with the company or no longer active reporters, please contact Pat McMeel. Persons wishing to become **PLAIN TALKS** reporters should also contact the editor. We can never have too many reporters.

BATON ROUGE: Margie Force (T&D); T. Boone Chaney (T&D), Melanie Hima (T&D), Jack Gautreaux (T&D), James W. Bello (T&D), GERALYN Williams (Gas), Glenda Boyd (Acct.), Mary Smith, Robert Graves (Storeroom), Susan Wilks, Debbie Lynn (Engr.), Linda Nelson (Meter), Debbie Reeves (Sub.)

BEAUMONT: Bill Toups (S.C.), Carolyn Motl (T&D), Ann Ogden, Edy Matthews, Dorothy Nowell, Carolyn Thaggard, Gina Collins, Gene Russell.

CALVERT: Betty Dowell.

CLEVELAND: Pat Jones, Edd Mitchell.

CONROE: Frances Elliot, Marilyn Key, Pat Jones.

DENHAM SPRINGS: Lenelle Juban.

GONZALES: Billie Fortenberry.

HUNTSVILLE: Karen Morley.

JENNINGS: Earl Mayfield.

LAFAYETTE: Mona Burris.

LAKE CHARLES: Billie Belvin (Garage), Edith Patterson (T&D), Janet Followay.

LA. STATION: Marilyn Nicholson.

LEWIS CREEK: D. W. Rutherford.

MADISONVILLE: Jean Tinsley.

NAVASOTA: Betty Dickschat.

NECHES STATION: Terry Bond.

NELSON STATION: Martha Caldwell.

NEW CANEY: Diana Winkelmann, Paul Mosley.

ORANGE: Doris Womack.

PORT ALLEN: Adele Vavasseur.

PORT ARTHUR: Sue Williams, Lorraine Dunham (S.C.)

SABINE STATION: Darlene Faires, Fred Kressman.

SOMERVILLE: Mary Brock.

SULPHUR: Pearl Burnett.

WILLOW GLEN: Dora Landaiche, James Veatch.

WOODVILLE: Alene Cole.

ZACHARY: Myra Ponthier.



FORE!—Friends and co-workers of Louis Sandidge in the Beaumont Service Center made sure he would be prepared for Madisonville when he takes over as superintendent. Louis, accompanied by his wife, Carmelene, not only received going away gifts, but anniversary gifts as well . . . their 15th. Gifts included a parka, golf glove, golf bag and clubs, plus a Snoopy trophy. Some special guests were on hand and included Louis' father, a retired GSUer, Ward McCurtain and Louis' old boss, Mr. McMinn. (Carolyn Motl)



A NEW SEALY—This young man is Jared Michael Sealy, all 13 pounds of him. He checked in at eight pounds one and one-half ounces in August. He is the son of Sharon and Mike Sealy (Labor Relations Dept.). He was two months old at the time of this picture.



BY BY RONNIE—Ron McKenzie was the subject of a congratulations and good by party thrown by his co-workers in Beaumont T&D. McKenzie was moved to the main office as staff engineer, and along with him he took a desk weather station, Tiger's eye tie tack, money bag with clip and an executive past time (basketball net that fits over trash can). (Carolyn Motl)



WRONG CLOTHING—Doris Jimmerson is off to a new assignment at Sabine Station in Bridge City. Before she left her friends and co-workers in the storeroom gave her a party and some clothing . . . but we doubt the black nightie she holds is in style where she'll be.



FUTURE EXEC—Karen Bishop, daughter of Brooks Bishop (Marketing-Beaumont), has completed the classroom portion of an executive training course offered to selected employees of Foley's Department Stores in Houston. When graduated, Karen will become Assistant-Buyer in the Infant Department of the downtown Foley's store in Houston.



SABINE STATION'S GAIN—Lynn Bouillion has been transferred to Sabine Station, but before going he was given a farewell party by his friends. Appliance Repair turned out in force to wish him well. In this lineup are, left to right, C. F. Russum, L. C. Sandidge, Jerry Terry, Lynn, Jeffie Simms and T. O. Adams. (Carolyn Mott)



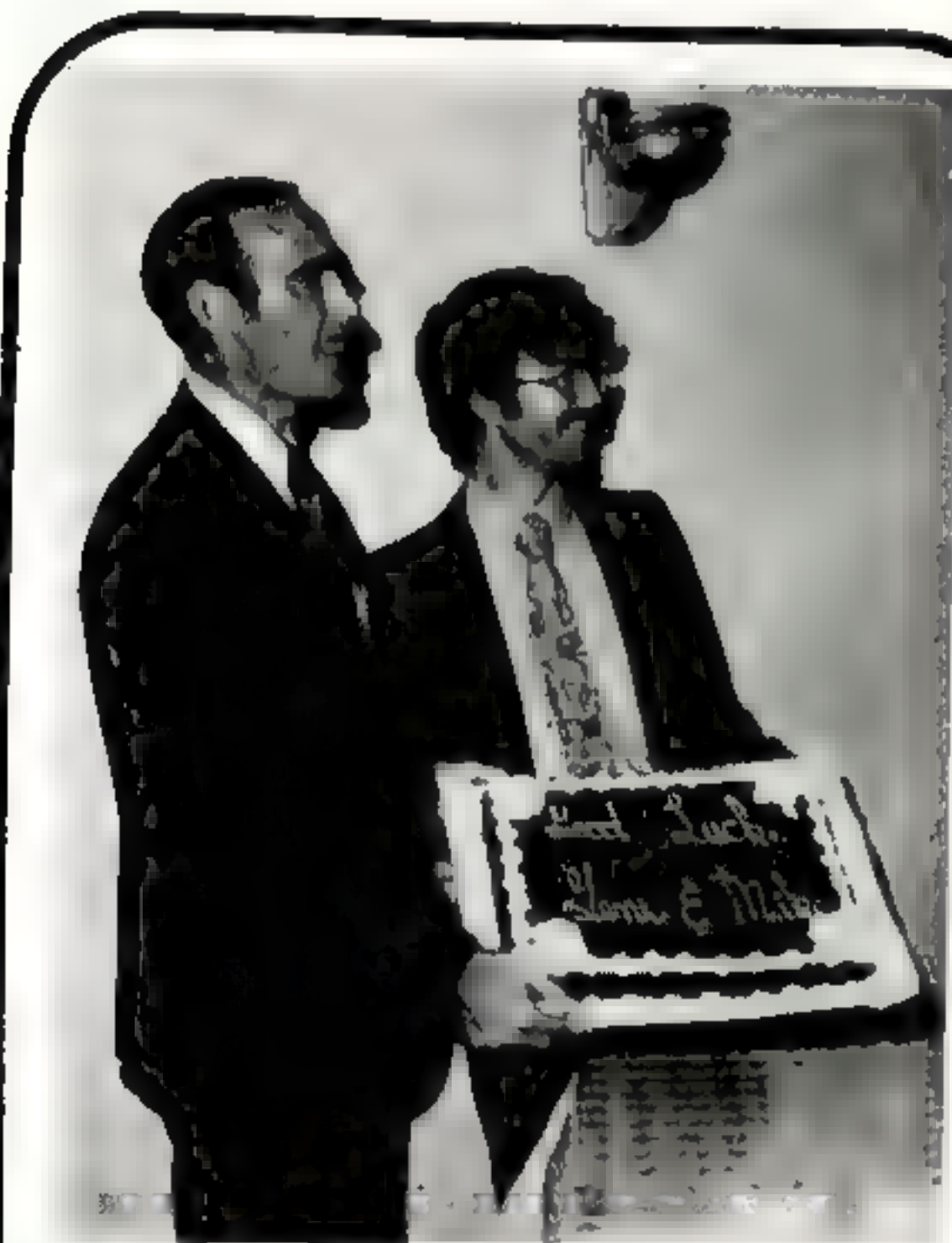
BACK TO CALVERT—Goree Matthews, superintendent at Navasota, and his wife Phyllis, were given a retirement party in Navasota by his many friends and co-workers over the years. Goree and Phyllis will set up house in Calvert where he intends to use a new set of golf clubs extensively. (Betty Dichschat)

SURPRISE—A. W. Baird, operating superintendent of Beaumont T&D, was given a surprise birthday party by his staff. He received two cakes and lots of greetings. It marked his 64th birthday, and was commemorated by a card that came complete with coffee stains. (Carolyn Mott)

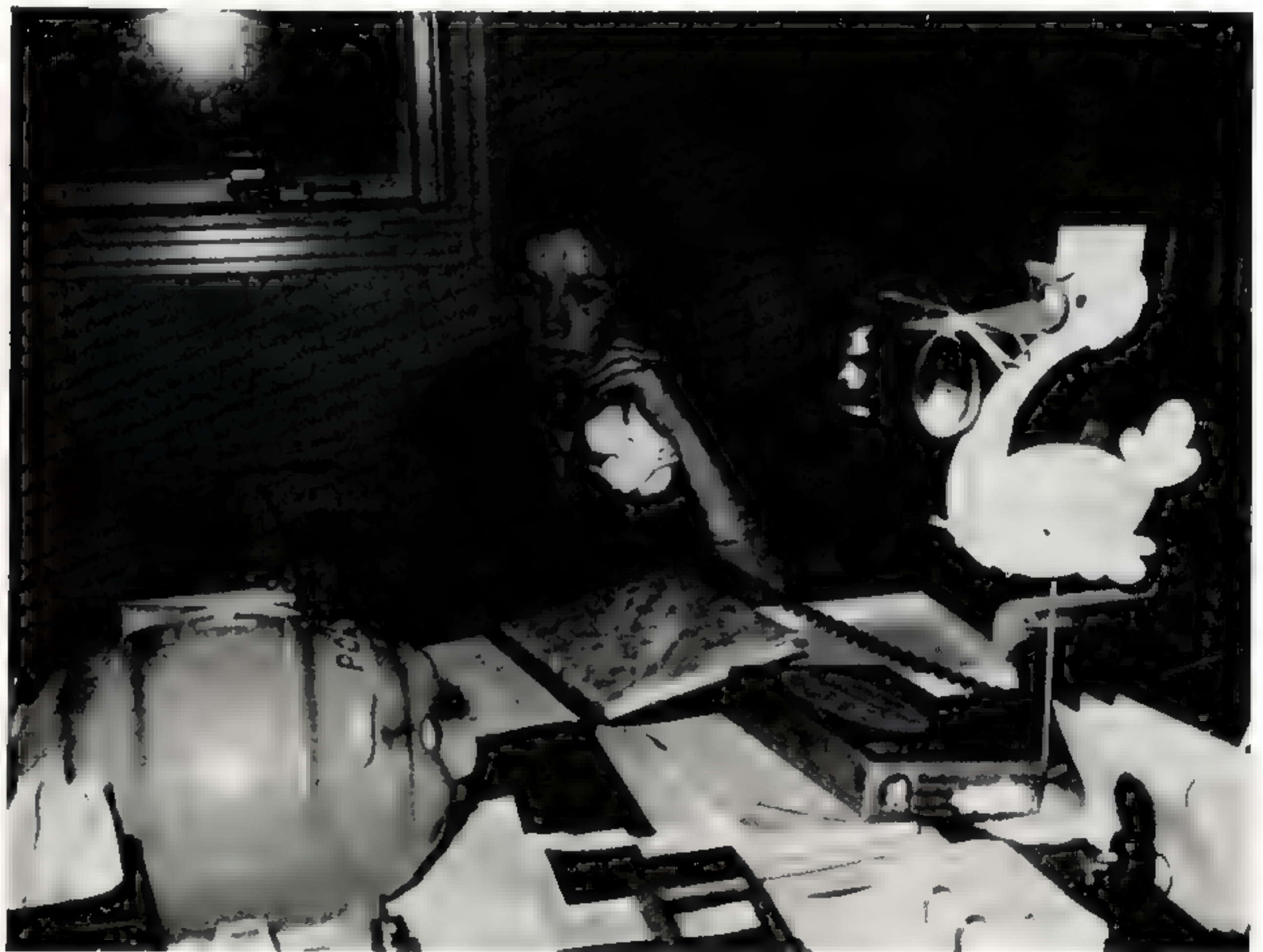




NEW SCENERY FOR CARL AND WAYNE—Carl Jones, second from left, and Wayne Sullins, far right, were given a going away party recently following new assignments. Jones, an analyst in the Marketing Department, is now a member of the Tax Department, while Sullins, former director of industrial development, is now division engineer in Beaumont. Jones was presented a tackle box and Sullins a digital clock for his desk. Looking on are Charles Glass, Gladys Hammond and Cleo Tolley. (See people on the move).



LONG GONE—Gene Anderson and Mike Ross have left Beaumont for distant parts of the country. Anderson, left, now resides in Indianapolis, Ind., while Ross (former PLAIN TALKS editor), now toils for a nuclear laboratory in California near San Francisco.



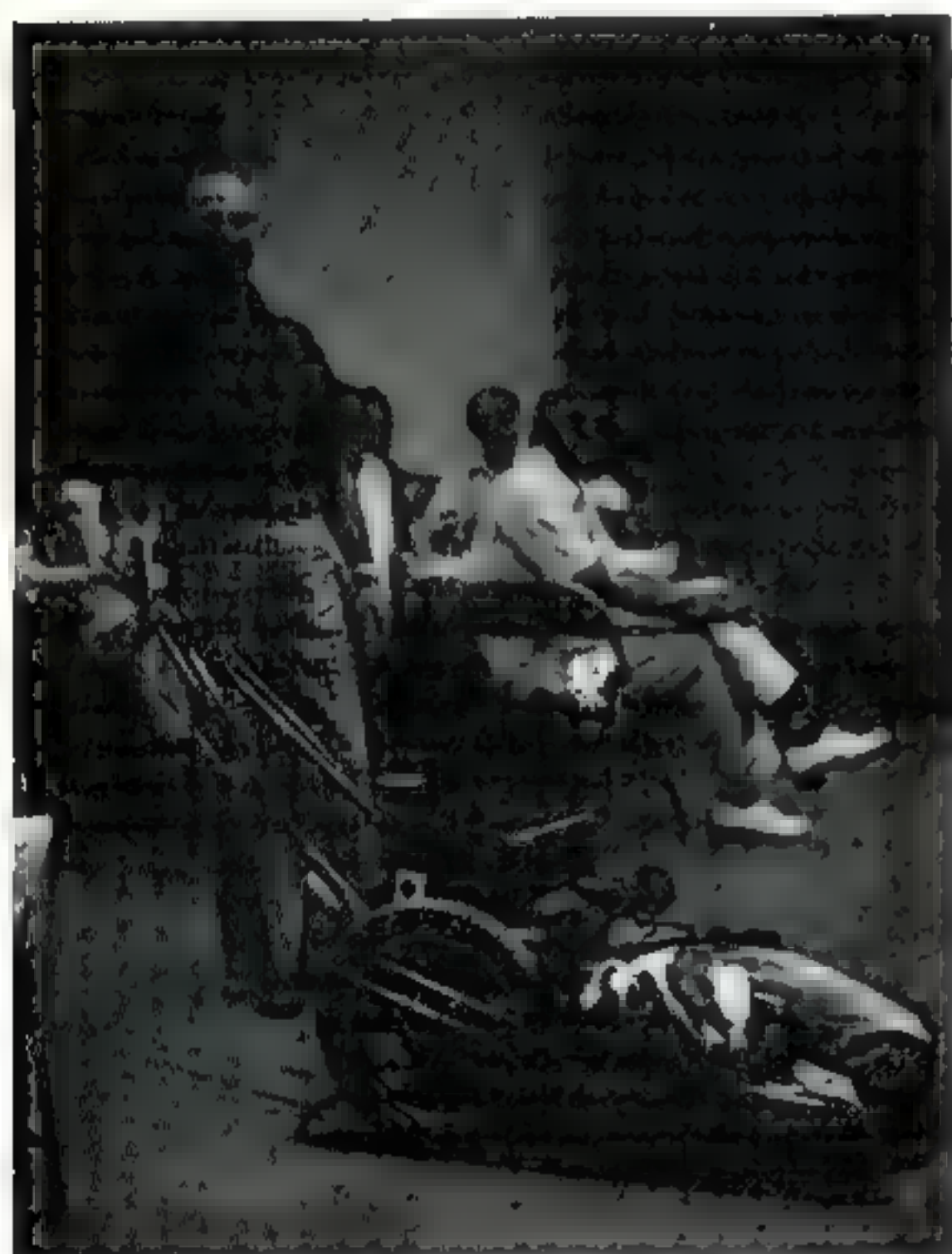
JUST A MATTER OF TIME—No this isn't a Vlasic Pickle Party, but you are close. Lafayette employees gave a baby shower for Helen Kennedy, departmental clerk in T&D. Helen is taking a leave of absence to await the arrival of her baby. Her gifts included a baby book, feeding tray, dinner set and Porco the Pig bank with a little something inside. (Mona Burris)



LEWIS CREEK TOUR—Seven members of the Phi Sigma Alpha Sorority, Zeta Eta Chapter of Conroe, visited Lewis Creek Station this month to get a first hand idea of how electric energy is generated. Lonnie Cobb, superintendent, along with Floyd Langlois and D. O. Gipson were more than happy to show the ladies around the plant. Cobb said he encourages tours through the plant because of the information it provides to the general public. (D. W. Rutherford)



MAURICEVILLE MAULER -Ted Asa Hickman, nine year old son of George Hickman, engineering dept.-Beaumont S.C., plays football for the Orange Pee Wee League. He is a defensive end for the Mauriceville Panthers. (Carolyn Mott)

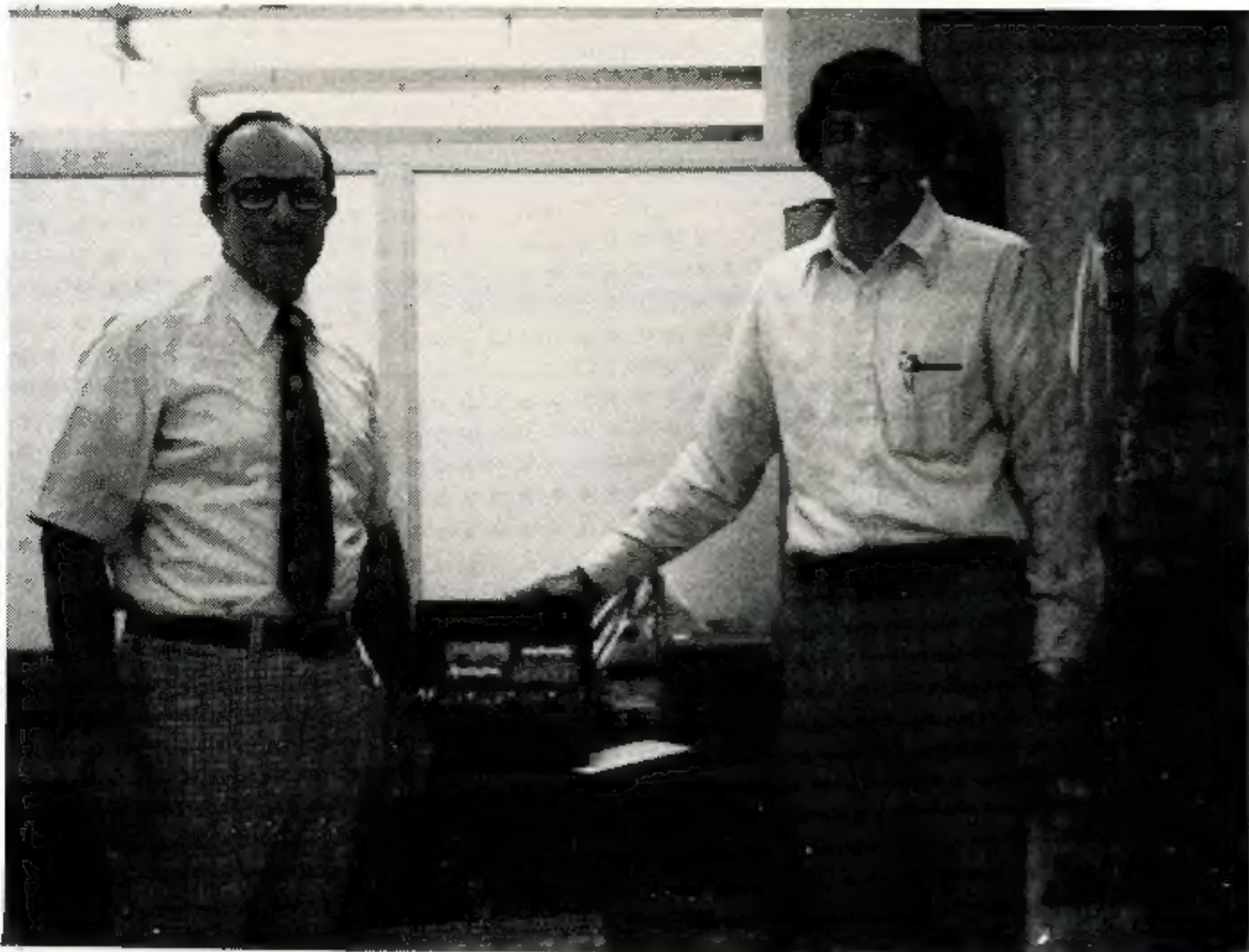


GOOD BY C.J.—C. J. Soileau has joined the leisure life now after retiring from the Baton Rouge garage. Before he left many of C. J.'s friends and co-workers got together for a retirement party and presented him with this delux lawn-mower to use at his camp in LaComb. (T. Boone Chaney)

ON BOARD — Jim Stelly, Orange District Superintendent, has been elected for a three year term on the Greater Orange Area Chamber of Commerce.



I DID IT -Herb Stein, senior budget analyst in Corporate & Finance Department in Beaumont, was congratulated by his friends and co-workers following his announcement that he was about to become a papa again. Giving credit where it's due, he did say that his wife Becky deserved some credit herself. Anyway, their second child is due in late March. Son Billy can't wait.



READY FOR HUNTING—When Don Leland, right, transferred from Lake Charles T&D to Nelson Station, H. E. Mack, operating superintendent, and friends and co-workers of Leland decided not to let him get away before giving him hunting boots and shotgun shells. They said, with good humor, that it was time Don shot off something else besides his mouth.

ROYAL SENDOFF—B. D. Strait never had it so good. B. D., a summer and part time employee for the past three years in the Duplicating Department in Beaumont, is now the full time assistant manager for the TG&Y Family Center in Vidor, Te. But, before he left he was given a royal send off. "TG&Y", said Joan Hudson with a giggle, "really means Tough, Good and Young."



FUTURE MAJOR LEAGUERS—Who knows? Someday Bill Barksdale, operating superintendent-Baton Rouge Electric T&D, may well have two sons playing major league ball. Ron, left, 9 years old, is an avid Little Leaguer and plays third base as well as catches, for a team called Buddy's Advertising. Meanwhile, Brad, 11 years old, toils for Wilson's Distributor as a second baseman and center fielder. Dad must get a real workout when the boys want to practice. (Margie Force)

MONEY TREE—W. H. "Whitney" Long and his wife were honored at a retirement party in the Service Center in Beaumont. S. H. Canfield, Whitney's supervisor, presented him with a money tree containing silver dollars along with other gifts. (Bill Toups)



WELCOME ABOARD

SYSTEM DEPARTMENT

Power Plant Engrg & Design

Risener, Noel D., Bmt, Engr Assistant

System Engineering

Smith, David L., Bmt, Engr Helper - Eng Des/Relay Design

Material Services

Tipton, Joann, Bmt, Clerk - Mat Servs/Overall

Information & Data Services

Mansfield, Mary Q., Bmt, Stenographer - IDS/Records

BEAUMONT DIVISION

Division Production

Mabry, Richard A., Bmt, Optr Helper - Neches Sta/Operns

Distribution

Hudgins, Paul A., Bmt, Laborer I - T&D/Labor crws

King, Michael W., Silsbee, Helper-T&D-T&D/Labor crws

Division Marketing

Lamb, Carol A., Bmt, Consumer Serv Adv-Div Mktg/Home Serv

Division Accounting

Lamberson, Debra K., Anahuac, Local Off Clk - Div Acctg/Overall

Parks, Michael A., Anahuac, Meter Reader-Div Acctg/Cust Accts

Bourgeois, Kathy L, Bmt, Clerk-Div Acctg/Cust Accts

Cormier, Barry V., Bmt, Storeroom Asst-Div Acctg/Stores

PORT ARTHUR DIVISION

Division Production

Lane, Venice O., Pt Arth, Equip Oper-Sab Sta/Operns

Homme, Thor W., Pt Arth, Laborer I-Sab Sta/Lab crews

Moore, William E., Pt Arth, Equip Oper-Sab Sta/Operns

Distribution

Jackson, Anthony W., Pt Arth, Laborer I-T&D/Lab crews

Francis, Earnest, Jr, Pt Arth, Laborer I-T&D/Lab crews

Franks, Byron P., Pt Arth, Shop & Field Tester-T&D/Meter

Division Accounting

Petry, Mark S., Pt Arthur, Laborer I - Div Acctg/Stores

WESTERN DIVISION

Division Production

Hamilton, John H., Jr., Conroe, Mechanic Helper-L Creek/Maint-Test

Kelly, Willie B., Jr., Conroe, Equip Oper-L Creek/Operns

Distribution

Taylor, Fred M., Conroe, Engr Helper-T&D/Engr

Watkins, Michael G., Conroe, Substa Mech 4/C-T&D/Substa

Ross, Walter J., Conroe, Engr Helper-T&D/Engr

Miller, David L., Conroe, Laborer I-T&D/Lab crews

Mitchell, Larry D., Conroe, Laborer I-T&D/Lab crews

Sisson, James M., Conroe, Laborer I-T&D/Lab crews

Division Accounting

Dever, Karen P., N Caney, Local Off Clerk-Div Acctg/Overall

Powell, Gary D., N Caney, Meter Reader-Div Acctg/Cust Accts

Evans, Malcolm, Conroe, Meter Reader-Div Acctg/Cust Accts

BATON ROUGE DIVISION

Division Production

Dunetz, Daniel M., B Rouge, Equip Oper-W/Glen/Operns

Lodge, Freddie, Jr., B Rouge, Laborer I-W/Glen/Labor crews

Verrette, Raymond, B Rouge, Laborer I-La Sta/Labor crews

Distribution

Foster, James R., Jr., B Rouge, Laborer I-T&D/Labor crews-line

Division Accounting

Holden, Bessie B., B Rouge, Clerk-Div Acctg/Cust Relations

Knapps, Keith P., Zachary, Meter Reader-Div Acctg/Cust Accts

LAKE CHARLES DIVISION

Division Accounting

Cormier, Sharolyn S., Jngs, Local Office Clerk-Div Acctg/overall

Stevens, Calvert J., L Chas, Meter Reader-Div Acctg/Cust Accts

Murdock, Dave R., L Chas, Laborer I-Div Acctg/Stores

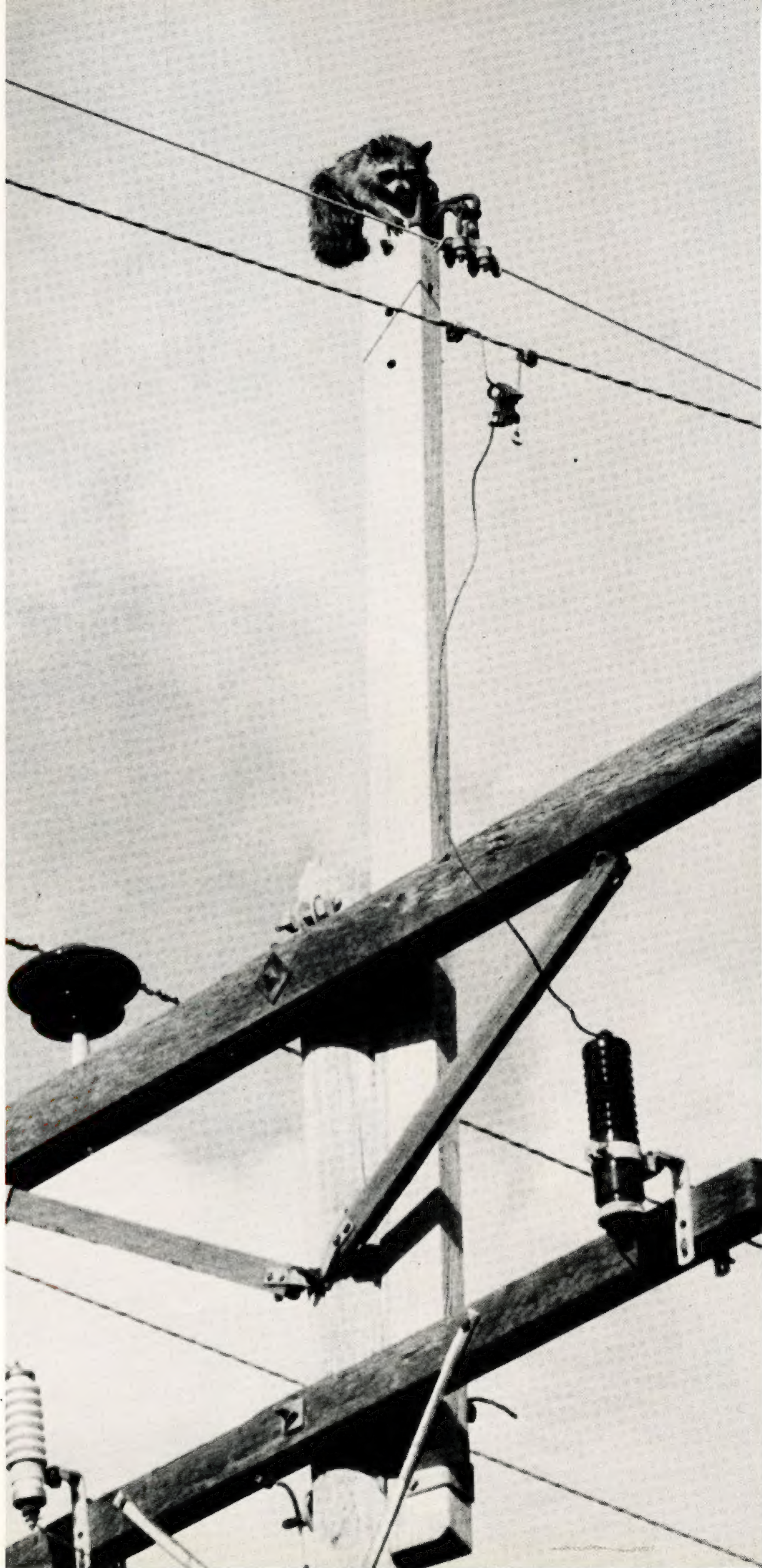
ADMINISTRATIVE

Koch, Nancy N., Bmt., Admin Acctg-Acctg Servs/Gen Acctg

Johnson, Robert R., Bmt, Budget Analyst-Fin Servs/Budget

ONE COOL COON

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